



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**National Homeownership Month Celebrated
--Jackson Homeowner Rebuilds Home Destroyed By Tornado**

JACKSON, Neb., June 27, 2002 -- June has been declared as National Homeownership Month as announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the spirit of homeownership and in celebration of National Homeownership Month a Ribbon-Cutting ceremony and tree planting was held in Jackson, Neb. at the new home of Joaquin Vasquez and his family of six.

In 2001, the Vasquez family's new home, which they had occupied for only two months, was demolished by a tornado that left merely the basement salvageable. Displaced by the storm, this couple in their 20's with children ranging in age from 4 yrs. to 9 yrs. relied on relatives for a place to stay until they could move into an apartment facility.

The process of picking up the pieces began quickly for Joaquin Vasquez. He took his survival spirit of providing for his family and created a floor plan for the construction of a semi-earth home. Sketching in all the intricate details of the home on no less than a napkin. Step by step he marked the floor plan, which included enlarging the basement area. Joaquin took two to three months off work and with the help of family, friends and contractors rebuilt his family home in less than a year.

Another storm was faced by Joaquin as he learned that the conventional financing would only provide a portion of the dollars needed to rebuild. Joaquin approached city officials in Jackson, Neb. for guidance. The city officials directed him to Rob Bock of Security National Bank in Allen, Neb. as he worked with the housing partners of USDA Rural Development, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

The housing partners joined forces to provide the Vasquez family with the money needed for their new home. The Northeast Housing Initiative CHDO assisted with down payment assistance. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority provided first time homebuyers rates. Security National Bank of Allen helped with a housing loan backed by a guarantee from USDA Rural Development. Insurance proceeds comprised the balance of the funding.

"The toil of rebuilding is worth the home we live in today," stated Vasquez. "We are grateful to all who helped us in our time of need--from family and friends to those who assisted in financing our home. It is good to be home again."

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